

Claims

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1. An information processing apparatus which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus, characterized by comprising:

storage means for storing appropriate proxy account settlement information for said other information processing apparatuses;

requesting means for requesting said other information processing apparatuses to provide appropriate accounting information according to said proxy account settlement information stored in said storage means;

first reception means for receiving said accounting information sent by said other information processing apparatuses in response to the request from said requesting means;

sending means for sending said accounting information received by said first reception means to said control apparatus;

second reception means for receiving the registration conditions prepared based on the results of the account settlement performed according to said accounting information sent by said sending means and received from said control apparatus; and

control means for controlling the operation, based on said registration conditions received by said second reception means.

2. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus, characterized by comprising:

a storage step of storing appropriate proxy account settlement information for said other information processing apparatuses;

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a requesting step of requesting said other information processing apparatuses to provide appropriate accounting information according to said proxy account settlement information stored in said storage step;

a first reception step of receiving said accounting information sent by said other information processing apparatuses in response to the request from said requesting step;

a sending step of sending said accounting information received by said first reception step to said control apparatus;

a second reception step of receiving the registration conditions prepared based on the results of the account settlement performed according to said accounting information sent by said sending step and received from said control apparatus; and

a control step of controlling the operation, based on said registration conditions received by said second reception step.

3. A providing medium that provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which

decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus, characterized in that said process comprises:

a storage step of storing appropriate proxy account settlement information for said other information processing apparatuses;

a requesting step of requesting said other information processing apparatuses to provide appropriate accounting information according to said proxy account settlement information stored in said storage step;

a first reception step of receiving said accounting information sent by said other information processing apparatuses in response to the request from said requesting step;

a sending step of sending said accounting information received by said first reception step to said control apparatus;

a second reception step of receiving the registration conditions prepared based on the results of the account settlement performed according to said accounting information sent by said sending step and received from said control apparatus; and

a control step of controlling the operation, based on said registration conditions received by said second reception step.

4. An information processing apparatus which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus, characterized by comprising:

first storage means for storing appropriate proxy purchase information for said other information processing apparatuses;

first preparation means for preparing appropriate accounting information according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage means;

second preparation means for preparing appropriate usage control status according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage means;

second storage means for storing said accounting information prepared by said first preparation means; and

sending means for sending said usage control status prepared by said second preparation means and the key necessary to decrypt said encrypted information supplied by said control apparatus.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that, when said other information processing apparatuses comprise:

a display control means for controlling appropriate display; and an input control means for controlling the input of appropriate data,

said first preparation means prepares said accounting information based on the data entered into said input control means with reference to said display controlled by said display means, and

said second preparation means prepares said usage control status based on the data controlled by said input control means with reference to said display controlled by said display means.

6. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus, characterized by comprising:

a first storage step of storing appropriate proxy purchase information for said other information processing apparatuses;

a first preparation step of preparing appropriate accounting information according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage step;

a second preparation step of preparing appropriate usage control status according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage step;

a second storage step of storing said accounting information prepared by said first preparation step; and

a sending step of sending said usage control status prepared by said second preparation step and the key necessary to decrypt said encrypted information supplied by said control apparatus.

7. A providing medium that provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which

decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus, characterized in that said process comprises:

a first storage step of storing appropriate proxy purchase information for said other information processing apparatuses;

a first preparation step of preparing appropriate accounting information according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage step;

a second preparation step of preparing appropriate usage control status according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage step;

a second storage step of storing said accounting information prepared by said first preparation step; and

a sending step of sending said usage control status prepared by said second preparation step and the key necessary to decrypt said encrypted information supplied by said control apparatus.

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